

Learning a Lesson the Second Time (Mark 8:1-9)

Proposition: In this repeated miracle there are 3 important truths to be drawn that can teach us some important lessons for our lives.

I. The Suggestion of the Passage

A. A Suggestion concerning Misconceptions about the Passage

B. A Suggestion concerning a Mapping the Passage

C. A Suggestion concerning the Meaning of the Passage

II. The Signification of His Person

A. A Signification in the Oracles

B. A Signification in His Origin

C. A Signification in His Ordinances

III. The Sufficiency of His Person

A. A Sufficiency for All in Salvation

B. A Sufficiency for each in Supply

The Second Time (Mark 8:1-9)

Even has recently begun trying to learn his multiplication tables. This reminds me of how I learned my multiplication tables. We just memorized them. I remember writing them over and over and over again. I may not have understood all the math to those tables, but I learned them by memory so that eventually the math would eventually sink in. Here in our text there should be something really familiar about it. It may be like the great Yogi Berra said, "It is déjà vu all over again." Yes, in chapter #6 we have seen Jesus in a very similar situation. Taking a insignificant lunch and feeding a great multitude. But why do we see Jesus doing the same miracle in two places only a few chapters apart? It could be that just like the repetition of those times tables it takes us a few times to learn a lesson. I believe there are 3 important truths to be drawn out of this repeated miracle.

I. Suggestions of the Passage

The repeating of this miracle brings to the surface of our mind several suggestions that I want to draw your attention to.

Notre first of all a...

A. Suggestion concerning misconceptions
I'd like to suggest to you that since it is a repeated miracle some develop misconceptions concerning this text. I remember the liberal college bible class teacher suggesting that the manuscript was corrupt and this was a mistake in Bible to over look. But later in chapter 15:12-20 Jesus refers to both the feedings independently.

B. Suggestion concerning a mapping of Passages
Since these are different it is important that we map them out in a side by side comparison to see the differences between them. One was 5000 the other 4000. 5000 feeding in all 4 gospels. The 4000 only in Mark + Matthew. 5000 crowd w/ Jesus 1 day, the 4000 3 days (Matt 15:32) 5000: 5 loaves & fish 4000: 7 loaves and few (3 or more) 5000: 1 Prayer + 4000: 3 Prayers

C. Suggestion concerning the meaning of Passages
Yes they are different. Two separate occasions. But what's the point? What's the meaning behind this second miracle? 17-20 suggest they didn't learn some lesson, some important lesson the first or the second time. Jesus is repeating the lesson again so they would get it. Some lessons as a child I only had to learn once other again.

II. Signification of His Person

You would think that in this situation the disciples would take one look and say no problem. He did it before, he'll do it again.

1) that can teach us some important lessons for our lives.

2) ...independently. Every word, every account in the scripture is to be considered important and never to be minimized.

3) 5000, Jews response to this great miracle, crown the Lord Jesus

as the King, they recognized that there was something unique

about Him. We don't find such a reaction 4000 ;no messianic

hope the way the Jews had. Remainder of loaves 5000 12

baskets - 12 handbaskets the Greek word is 'kophenos' (sp?), it's

the little lunchboxes; 4000 seven wicker baskets, the Greek

word is 'spures' (sp?) which is speaking of big hampers,

- 1) ...with them. But no they were not getting the fact that there was nothing which Jesus could not do. In this miracle Jesus is once again signifying who he is.
- 2) Exodus 16:4 Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. Exodus 16:15 And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.
- 3) John 6:49-51 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.
- 4) ...what he is doing in the repeated, strangely familiar trials of your life. Is he trying to prove to you that he is Saviour and God sent from heaven for you? Is he attempting to pull the blinders off of your eyes to show you all that he is?

They would recognize who was with them.
A Signification in the Miracle - The miracle of both the feeding of 5000 + 4000 should bring to the mind of Jewish disciples the feeding of Israel in wilderness, the bread from heaven ^{Ex 16:4} manna. Jesus even says it after the feeding of the 5000 in Jn 6:49-51. He is the bread from heaven. This miracle signifies the person of Jesus.

B. Signification in His Origin - Even from the very beginning of his life he was the bread from heaven. He was born in Bethlehem - "the house of Bread". God sent the life saving manna to Bethlehem. His origin signifies that he is the Messiah.

C. Signification in the Ordinance - Even at the end of his life we see this same theme. At the first Lord's supper the night in which he was betrayed we find him saying concerning the unleavened bread "This is my body which is broken for you!" Jesus is trying to teach who he is, do that what he is doing in (C).

III Sufficiency of His Provision - Not only is he teaching them who he is but what he can do. V54 Notice the phrase "can a man satisfy". I wish we could

peer into their minds. What exactly did they know

A. Sufficient for all in Salvation -

Now remember where we are. The last feeding miracle was in Jewish territory, but now we are in and around Decapolis, we are in Gentile territory. Jesus is promising to the disciples that not only Jews but gentiles as well need the Bread of God from Heaven. In the previous

chapter the Syrophenician Gentile women begged for crumbs of bread from God. Here now the Lord provides an abundance of all satisfying bread. Rom 1:16. The gospel is filled for

B. Sufficient for each in Supply -

Vs 8 + They, individually were sufficient. What did they start with in Beth: 5000 (5 loaves & fishes) 4000 (7 loaves & few fishes) and in the 12 small baskets and 7 large baskets. The Supply all ways out weighed the demand. Don't look at and depend on the loaves & fish no matter how great or small, look to Christ. He alone is sufficient for our salvation, he alone is sufficient to meet our need of supply. ³ The old hymn

IV. Closing - Have you missed the lesson

There have been many times in my life that I have had to learn a lesson more than once. See who he is. See what he can do.

- 1) ...did they know. Well what ever they didn't know at the beginning or at the end it was not because Jesus didn't say it loud enough. He proves his sufficiency.

- 2) Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

- 3) 'When we have exhausted our store of endurance, When our strength has failed ere the day is half done, When we reach the end of our hoarded resources, Our Father's full giving is only begun!